

Employee Suggestions Recognized in Fiscal Year 2000

TANGIBLE SPECIAL AWARDS

Fourteen (14) individuals made suggestions that will result in first year cost savings of \$714,022 for Miami-Dade County. These Special Awards are based upon ten percent of the first year net savings.

Suggester, Department & Suggestion Description	First Year Tangible Net Savings	Award Amount
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**MICHAEL GARCIA AND
EUGENE STROZIER**

AVIATION DEPARTMENT

"TORQUE STRIPE NUT/BOLT ASSEMBLY"	\$ 8,366	\$ 837
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Mr. Garcia and Mr. Strozier suggested an efficient and time saving procedure that allows for the visual inspection of the critical torquing requirements of the passenger loading bridge structural connection integrity in between scheduled preventive maintenance. By simply painting a stripe after the torque is adjusted, mechanics are able to keep a check on the nut and bolt assembly. In addition to enhancing safety, this procedure has saved the department an annual net savings of \$8,366. (97-663)

CHRISTOPHER LONIC

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

"MODIFY PRE-COMBUSTION CHAMBER REMOVAL"	\$ 65,197	\$3,000
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Mr. Lonic suggested modifying the removal procedure of the pre-combustion chamber in the cylinder heads of the co-generation engine. With the old method, the mechanic used a special tool designed by the vendor. The tool, however, was not dependable. It caused wear and tear on the impact gun and eventually broke the weld on the tool. Mr. Lonic's method of welding on the large nuts enables the mechanic to use a 3/4" air impact tool that can take the force required to remove the retainers. The pre-combustion chambers need to be replaced on an average of every 6,000 hours. First year net savings of \$65,197 were reported. (98-673)

PETER CLARKE

CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT

"INFRARED BEAMS FOR SALLYPORT GATES"	\$ 7,912	\$ 791
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Mr. Clarke recommended the installation of infrared beams on the Sallyport gates at the Pretrial Detention Center and Metro West Detention Center. The installation of the infrared beams prevents the gates from closing on vehicles. Damage to the vehicles and gates have been virtually eliminated. First year net savings of \$7,912 have been documented. (99-571)

GLADYS JOVELLAR	\$ 2,801	\$ 280
CLERK'S OFFICE		
"CITATION FOR IMPOUNDMENT ORDER DESK"		

Ms. Jovellar suggested that a copy of the Traffic Citation be added to the Impoundment Order packet, which contained a Letter of Impoundment, law text, and an Impoundment Order. As a result of implementation, all documents are now forwarded to an electronic mass print queue for printing and distribution. This has eliminated the need for a two-phase process. Citations were previously manually located, copied, and added to each Impoundment Order packet prior to distribution. The Clerk's Office distributes more than 6,200 Impoundment Order packets a year. First year savings were estimated at \$2,800. (99-642)

LAURIE MCHARGUE AND JAMES CLOVIS		
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT		
"IMPROVED METHOD TO REMOVE NON-NATIVE CANE GRASSES"	\$ 25,684	\$2,568

Ms. McHargue and Mr. Clovis developed a new technology for eradicating non-native, invasive cane grass in pine Rockland habitats. The suggesters designed and constructed a spray shield that allows the grass to be killed while minimizing damage to surrounding native vegetation. Annual cost savings of over \$25,000 have resulted from implementation by both Natural Areas Management and the Department of Environmental Resource Management in treating 1,364 acres of pine Rockland and other habitats. (99-666)

KEVIN BLAND AND KATHERYN BOBER		
CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT		
"VIDEO CAMERAS FOR HOLDING CELLS"	\$181,750	\$3,000

Corporal Bland and Officer Bober both recommended that video cameras be installed in strategic areas in the Courthouse (i.e., Court holding cells). The installation of these cameras eliminated ten (10) middle positions and reduced overtime costs while providing constant observation of activities in the movement of inmates. The suggestion has resulted in better security and safety for both the officers and inmates. First year net savings totaled \$181,750. (99-706)

MARIA TAMAYO		
CLERK'S OFFICE		
"MONEY COUNTER MACHINE FOR DISTRICT COURTS"	\$ 79,065	\$3,000

Ms. Tamayo suggested using a Currency Scanner to count money at Clerk's Office locations with a history of high volume of cash transactions. After a successful field test was conducted, Currency Scanners were purchased for the Traffic Division, Parking Violations Unit, and Marriage License Bureaus, as well as six District Courts locations. Employees from these areas collect and process more than \$30 million in revenue, fees, fines, and costs. The previous manual end-of-the day money counting process required two employees to count and verify daily deposits and counting errors frequently resulted in overtime costs. The Currency Scanner is able to simultaneously sort and count mixed denominations with a greater degree of speed and accuracy, while also checking for counterfeit bills. First year savings, including equipment acquisition and depreciation, totaled \$79,065. (99-732)

ELISEO DAUBAR, JR.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

"ELIMINATE POOL CREDIT"

\$228,399

\$3,000

Mr. Daubar suggested that the Water and Sewer Department (WASD) eliminate the pool credit offered to customers who empty and fill their swimming pools. Over 4,800 such credits were offered during the year prior to implementation. Processing these credits was also a costly job to the Department. More than 690 Customer Service Representative hours were expended on this task. The pool credit was recently reinstated by the Department. But the full year of savings derived was more than \$228,000. (20-597)

CARLOS RAMIREZ

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"DIFFERENTIAL TOOL GIG"

\$ 6,043

\$ 604

Mr. Ramirez designed a mounting bracket to facilitate installation of differentials in Metromover cars. This task is very cumbersome and requires great care in positioning the approximately 300 pound object onto the lift table. The bracket he designed attaches to the pneumatic transmission jack and holds the differential in place at an angle. The "differential tool gig" enhances the physical working conditions of the mechanics, enhances overall safety of the task by making installation easier, and has resulted in first year cost savings of more than \$6,000. (20-620)

PETER DUBOSE

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

"HOOK-UP EMERGENCY GENERATOR

AT NORTH DADE LANDFILL"

\$ 10,057

\$1,006

Mr. Dubose suggested installing an emergency generator at the North Dade Landfill. This has negated the need for a mobile generator that had been positioned at the scale house. During emergencies the generator will also produce sufficient power to provide light and air conditioning. First year net savings were \$10,057. (20-633)

PAUL KEEFE, JR.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

"PRINT ONE-PAGE SERVICE WORK ORDER"

\$ 98,749

\$3,000

After Y2K modifications were made to the Water and Sewer Customer Information database (WSE), personnel was not able to print intact one-page service work orders. Mr. Keefe recommended that Service Work Orders be sent intact to remote network printers as soon as the order was received and created. This was successfully implemented by creating a BASIC macro to run in the EXTRA! main frame interface program. The suggested new system also replaced the time-consuming terminal polling method which each of the field districts previously utilized to obtain their service work orders several times each day. Resulting first year net savings were \$98,748. (20-656)

INTANGIBLE SPECIAL AWARDS

The following eight (8) suggesters made considerable improvements in County services and operations through the successful implementation of their suggestion but savings were not calculable.

Suggester, Department, Suggestion Title, & Suggestion Description	Award Amount
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JUAN NARANJO

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SUGGESTION IMPLEMENTED BY

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

"BUILDING PERMIT FOR GARAGE

AND EXTERIOR DOORS'

\$ 300

Mr. Naranjo suggested that a Building Permit category should be created exclusively for exterior and garage door replacements. Previous to this suggestion, citizens would have to apply for a General Construction Permit and spend almost an entire morning getting their documents reviewed by permit sections that were not required. The result has been an improvement in customer service and a more efficient permit process. (98-593)

BRENDA LA LONDE

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"USE STICKER TO UPDATE TOW TRUCK DRIVER ID"

\$ 200

Ms. La Londe suggested updating tow truck driver identification (ID) cards by putting a sticker on the backside of the old card with the new expiration date. When the suggestion was submitted there were 125 tow truck drivers throughout Miami-Dade County that had been processed by personnel from nine police stations. Implementation of the suggestion has reduced the amount of time it takes for processing and the amount of materials needed. (98-598)

JAMES SELKE

TEAM METRO

"STANDARDIZE DATA COLLECTION"

\$ 50

Mr. Selke suggested that the data collection process at Team Metro could be standardized to avoid duplication and ease the reporting process. Although his idea was trial tested at several Team Metro locations it was never implemented department-wide. His original idea was considered when a user group was brought together to review forms within the department. He is credited with being the first to identify the opportunity for such enhancements. (98-601)

EMILIO ORBIS

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

“DESIGN ARMS FOR SWM CONTAINER PICK-UP”

\$ 200

Mr. Orbis suggested and designed special arms for waste trucks to allow pick-up of two-yard containers at commercial accounts. These arms extend from the rear of the vehicle and attach to the front of the container. Without the arms, employees would have to enter into the enclosure housing the container, reach to the lower rear of the container, and attach a cable to pull the container from the enclosure. Because of the new arms, employees bend less, and don't have to climb or pull cable to empty the container. This minimizes the potential of employee injuries and enhances the efficiency of the process. (99-582)

ROBIN KENT-GARDNER

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IMPLEMENTED BY:

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

“MARKET ANIMAL CLINIC WITHIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES”

\$ 300

Ms. Kent-Gardner suggested that an automatic payroll deduction be set up to allow Miami-Dade County employees to support the Animal Care and Control's Mobile Animal Clinic (M.A.C.). The M.A.C. offers free or low-cost spaying, neutering, vaccinations, and dog licenses to people who cannot afford these services for their pets. It travels throughout Dade County. Fully implemented, this suggestion has already generated more than \$2,500 for this community service. (99-634)

EMILIO ORBIS

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

“40 YD CONTAINER REAR DOOR HINGE PLATE”

\$ 500

Mr. Orbis suggested reinforcing the door hinges on 40-yard containers with a steel plate to prevent them from being bent or broken. The suggestion has reduced the number of repairs to these doors and enhanced the safety of the operation. (99-663)

EMILIO ORBIS

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

“MODIFY HANDLE/LATCH – 40 YD CONTAINER”

\$ 500

Mr. Orbis suggested cutting the manufacturer's handle on the 40-yard containers and replacing it with a flat steel handle. This has solved the problem of the container handle hitting the wall at the Trash and Recycling Center and breaking the latch on the trucks. The idea has improved the operation and enhanced the safety of the process. (99-664)

KENNETH CHRISTOPHER AND**WILLIAM WOLFF**

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

“TOURIST POLICE LINK TO 911”

\$ 350

Prior to implementation of this suggestion, telephones at the Port of Miami designated as “Tourist Police Telephone Assistance” accessed the Miami-Dade Police Department's (MDPD) Police Operations Bureau. This Bureau is only manned during normal business hours. Lieutenant Christopher and Officer Wolff suggested that the phones should instead be linked to MDPD's Complaint Desk, which is manned 24-hours. This ensures that individuals at the Port of Miami seeking routine or emergency services speak to someone who can readily dispatch the appropriate assistance. (99-724)

TONI EVANS
CLERK'S OFFICE
"LANDLORD AND TENANT DOCKET CODE"

\$ 100

Ms. Evans suggested eliminating the need to use two different data screens when docketing landlord and tenant cases on an annual basis. The enhancement to the data entry process has been appreciable. (99-747)

TANGIBLE SPECIAL AWARDS

Eighteen (18) individuals made suggestions that will result in first year cost savings of \$786,858 for Miami-Dade County. These Special Awards are based upon ten percent of the first year net savings.

Suggester, Department & Suggestion Description	First Year Tangible Net Savings	Award Amount
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DANIEL ALONSO

AVIATION DEPARTMENT

"MODIFY AIR HANDLER DOORS"

\$ 2,550

\$ 255

Mr. Alonso suggested replacing the existing latch hardware on access doors to the handler units at Building 100 with studs and wing nuts. An estimated 90% of the handles were broken or missing. His suggestion has eliminated system failures due to failing doors. First year savings documented were \$2,550. (97-592)

ORLANDO PEREZ

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"INCREASE WEIGHT OF INNER
FRICTION DISC"

\$ 9,316

\$ 932

Mr. Perez suggested increasing the weight of the inner friction disc of the brake clutch unit in the voith transmission of the Flxible buses series 7,000, 8,000, and 9,000. The modification has addressed a 90% failure rate with almost 100% success. First year savings totaled \$9,316. (97-603)

**ALVARO BARAKAT, JOSE BENREY,
BEATRIZ BRONSON, PEDRO CASANOVA,
CARLOS GARCIA, CLIFFORD LAMSON,
AND JOHN THOMAS**

Suggesters from: AVIATION, POLICE, AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS

Suggestion Implemented By:

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"AUTOMATE DOWNLOAD OF FDLE
STOLEN VEHICLE INFORMATION"

\$ 14,605

\$2,210

Captain Casanova, Detectives Lamson and Thomas, Messrs. Benrey, Garcia, and Barakat, and Ms. Bronson developed the idea of accessing stolen vehicle information throughout the tri-county area. Prior to that, officers were only able to access stolen, towed, or abandoned vehicles reported in Miami-Dade County. Implementation of the idea led to greater benefits than initially anticipated. Officers can now obtain stolen vehicle information throughout the entire State of Florida. The suggestion has resulted in a first year net savings to the County of \$14,605 and \$950,000 has been recovered in stolen vehicles. (Final award amount reflects intangible benefits recognized in addition to ten percent of tangible costs savings documented.) (97-709)

ANTONIO PICALLO

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"REMOVE FRONT WHEEL SENSOR
FROM SPEEDOMETER"

\$ 69,368

\$3,000

Mr. Picallo suggested removing the front wheel sensor from the speedometer along with its complex wiring system. In its place, he recommended installing a single wire from the Trans ECU. This allows the speedometer to work hassle-free with minimum down time. The idea was successfully implemented as Campaign 84 at Metro Bus. First year savings of \$69,368 were reported. (98-615)

COSTELLO GUYTON

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

"REVISE OVERTIME AUTHORIZATION
FORM"

\$177,489

\$3,000

Lieutenant Guyton revised the Department's Overtime Authorization Form to enhance compliance with policies and procedures. The success of the Form has been: a reduction of departmental investigative costs; prevention of theft and forgery incidents by staff; and effective identification and inspection of those entities which are not in compliance with the department's policy and procedures governing overtime. First year's net savings were \$177,489. (98-696)

MIKE SMITH

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"MOBILE DATA TERMINAL UPDATE"

\$ 9,079

\$ 908

Mr. Smith suggested replacing the MCT-2000 Units, which were excessively cumbersome and experienced a high failure rate, with non-proprietary and inexpensive laptop computers. Implementation of the suggestion eliminated hundreds of hours of repeated installations and removals. Since laptops are more rugged and removed from vehicles, vehicle break-ins were reduced and heat damage minimized. First year savings were \$9,079. These savings reflect maintenance hours only because the equipment was changed at no cost by the vendor. (98-707)

ROBERT JAMES LANG

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

"CHANGE O RING NOT HYDRAULIC
ACTUATORS"

\$ 19,107

\$1,911

Mr. Lang suggested that the Zurn Hydraulic Actuators be replaced in the toilets at the Metro West Detention Center instead of purchasing a whole new unit. The replacement part would cost 7 cents versus the new purchase price of \$21.30 for a complete unit. Implementation of this idea has increased the life of the fixtures and resulted in an annual cost savings of \$19,107. (99-568)

LUIS FERRERDEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

(No Longer County Employee)

"COMBING SYSTEM/ SEWER ATLAS/
GREASE DISCHARGE PROGRAM"

\$159,000

\$3,000

Mr. Ferrer suggested using a Sewer Atlas Index to better deploy field personnel and reduce the backlog in the annual inspection cycle of the Grease Discharge Program operated by DERM. The suggester also designed a "Combing System" to show how employees would cover inspection areas more thoroughly and effectively. The final success of this idea includes: improved employee productivity; assures an annual inspection cycle; increases the number of inspections completed; and provides for the addition of pump station inspections into the Grease Discharge Program. First year savings were \$159,000. (99-655)

ENRIQUE DE LA AGUILERA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

"MRK COMBINED TEST AND
PROGRAMMING HOOK-UP"

\$ 50,000

\$3,000

Mr. De la Aguilera suggested combining two separate programming and testing features to simplify the repair process for MRK radios. Interconnection eliminates the Technician from having to switch cables to complete the PM/Alignment of a radio. Now they are able to align, test, and verify that the operation of the radio meets manufacturers and Miami-Dade County specifications with a time saving of at least half an hour per radio. First year savings were \$50,000. (99-674)

ROBERTO GALVEZ

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

"MODIFY PERFORATED SHIELD ON

MRK RADIOS"

\$236,000

\$3,000

Mr. Galvez suggested improving the MRK series radios used by Police, Fire, and other government agencies. The switch leads installed by the manufacturer were too sharp and after a period of use produced a short of Part # K19/AS000001113. This caused radio failures, resulted in excessive down time; and contributed to unsafe working conditions. The problem was corrected by Galvez' suggestion to trim and round the leads and reinforce the shields with extra insulation. The radios are more reliable and rugged as a result and a \$300 radio repair has been eliminated. First year savings reported are \$236,000. (99-730)

EDWARD STANLY

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

"LOCKED TOILET PAPER RACK"

\$ 2,704

\$ 270

Mr. Stanly designed a four-roll toilet paper rack that locks. This locked toilet paper rack is very practical in that it has allowed the restrooms to have a neater appearance and eliminated unnecessary losses. The labor supervisor also reduced time spent replenishing missing rolls. Savings for the first year are \$2,704. (99-755)

MARIO LOPEZ

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"OVERTIME ALLOCATION MANAGER"

\$ 37,640

\$3,000

Mr. Lopez recommended that the Communications Bureau automate overtime assignments. Prior to Mr. Lopez' suggestion, a manual card and log system was in place that was very tedious and time-consuming. Additionally, errors were inadvertently made which caused conflicts and contributed to low employee morale. Using criteria from the old system, Mr. Lopez created a database that allocated overtime in one single step. From the inception of the trial test, time spent in assigning overtime has been significantly reduced, and employee morale has increased due to the reliability of the new program. An annual net savings of \$37,640 was realized the first year. (20-572)

INTANGIBLE SPECIAL AWARDS

The following twenty-two (22) suggesters made considerable improvements in County services and operations through the successful implementation of their suggestion but savings were not calculable.

Suggester, Department

Suggestion Title

& Suggestion Description

Award

Amount

ORLANDO PEREZ

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"REPLACE BRASS BUSHING WITH

TWO NEEDLE BEARING"

\$ 350

Mr. Perez identified a problem with the sun gear shaft bushing on the V-730 and V-731 Allison Transmission wearing out too rapidly. He suggested replacing the gear with a needle bearing. The modification significantly increased the transmission's durability. (87-883)

BRENT JELLISON (Retired) AND
MORRIS PENROD
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY
“FILTER DRAINING SYSTEM”

\$ 150

At the time of this suggestion, filters were removed from buses without an efficient means of draining the used oil. Together Mr. Jellison and Mr. Penrod developed an environmentally friendly method of draining and disposing of used filters. Implementation of the filter draining system has significantly reduced hazardous bulk waste and reaffirmed the County's commitment and ongoing efforts to preserve our local environment. (91-1223)

BRENT JELLISON (Retired) AND
MORRIS PENROD
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY
“DRUM DEHEADER”

\$ 200

Historically, cutting the ends of 55-gallon drums had been an annoying, wasteful, and potentially dangerous job in the Bus Maintenance Division. Mr. Jellison and Mr. Penrod designed a quick and safe method by modifying a tool to do the job safer and quicker. Successful application of the tool has also made the cumbersome task more efficient. (91-1296)

CARLOS BELLO
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT
“TRANSCIVERS: HIGH NOISE COMMUNICATIONS”

\$ 200

High decibel levels from the generators created an unsafe work environment and made work in these areas inefficient. The hearing protection issued by the County addressed safety but communication was impossible. Mr. Bello suggested providing personnel in these areas with transceivers with high filter immunity to background noise. Installation of the 800 MHz Radios, the Water Production Division was finally able to acquire and use the noise canceling headphones with success. (93-854)

MORRIS PENROD
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY
“100% COTTON CLEANING RAGS”

\$ 150

Mr. Penrod discovered that the Agency had been procuring “white” cotton rags at a premium price. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines only require that the rags be 100% cotton, without color specifications. The specifications were changed accordingly. (94-642)

EDDY BALLESTER, JR.

MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Suggestion Implemented By:

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

"AED TRAINING IN-HOUSE"

\$ 600

Lieutenant Ballester suggested that automated external defibrillators be placed in County facilities. This equipment is used by highly trained medical personnel (physicians, nurses and paramedics) in order to aid victims who have suffered cardiac arrest. If administered within two minutes of an attack, more than 90% can have restoration of a functioning heart rhythm. Training has been conducted for County employees (including the Police Department), and equipment has been placed in several County facilities and Police vehicles. (94-515)

JAIME MAS

AVIATION DEPARTMENT

"REROUTE COOL WATER FOR A/C CHILLER"

\$ 50

Mr. Mas's suggestion to re-route chilled water to cool the compressor motors had merit. Condensed water contained a certain amount of foreign particles, which caused strainers to continually clog. The use of chilled water, which is cleaner, would have solved this problem. After consultation with the manufacturer, the use of chilled water was determined economically unfeasible. As an alternate solution, larger holes were drilled into the existing strainers thus reducing the frequency of clogs. Since the suggestion led to a different solution an Action Award is warranted for the suggester. (95-529)

ROY ASBURY

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

"IMPROVE EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT
COMMUNICATIONS"

\$ 150

Officer Roy Asbury suggested that the Corrections Department provide one on one meeting sessions with the Director on a monthly basis to discuss vital concerns affecting Correctional Officer I positions only. The suggestion was modified to open quarterly staff meetings with all staff (including rank and file) at various department locations. These meetings have opened and improved communication lines within the Department. (95-890)

DAVID MARTINEZ (Retired)

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY

"IMPROVE ACCESS TO FLEXIBLE
L-89 SOLENOID"

\$ 400

At the time of this suggestion, all the 54,000 mile "C" bus inspections required that the Flexible L-89 power relay solenoid be replaced. Historically, the solenoid had been plagued by a short life span. Mr. Martinez developed a modification that eased access to the L-89 solenoid and facilitated substitution with a higher quality solenoid. Implementation of this idea also reduced road calls. (96-657)

MARIE MICHELINE PAUL
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
"BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL"

\$ 250

Marie Micheline Paul suggested an enhancement to the existing message on the back of the Occupational License Renewal Forms. The message now advises taxpayers to notify "in writing" if they are no longer in business. Implementation resulted in a more efficient license deletion process. This suggestion contributed to the process by reducing the number of phone calls as well as possible misunderstandings by the business public. (97-638)

JEROME MADISON
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY
"L BRACKET TO REPLACE DIODE"

\$ 300

Mr. Madison designed and fabricated an L-bracket that allows replacing the diode on Thermo-King air conditioner compressor clutches quicker and more efficiently. This diode often breaks off in the manifold. In addition to saving fifteen hours annually on this repair, the idea effectively reduces ozone layer exposure to Freon and R-22. (97-789)

LUIS RODRIGUEZ
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT AGENCY
"RTS DRIVER VENTS FOR ARTICULATED"

\$ 300

Mr. Rodriguez suggested installing the RTS air conditioning vents on articulated buses. This solved a problem that the manufacturer had not been able to address and for which parts were not available. It has been used successfully and affords drivers a safer work environment. (97-831)

CURTIS SOMMERHOFF
MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER
Suggestion Implemented By:
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
"HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING"

\$ 500

Mr. Summerhoff suggested training in Hurricane preparation be provided to County personnel. The suggestion has already been implemented at the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department and plans are underway to extend it to all County employees, especially those key departments involved in Hurricane recovery. The Office of Emergency Management concurs that one of the most important parts of disaster recovery is our human resources. This idea has the potential to save lives. (98-688)

ESTER JONES
CLERK'S OFFICE
"INCLUDE HOLDER'S ADDRESS
ON JUDGMENT FORM"

\$ 200

Ms. Jones' suggestion resulted in modifications to the Final Judgment Forms used in the Civil Division of the Clerk's Office. Last year more than 70,000 Final Judgments were entered for cases filed in this Division. By eliminating the need to pull the court file for address verification, this suggestion contributed to operational efficiencies by reducing processing time while also shortening the turn-around-time for notification to judgment holders as required by F.S. 55.10 and F.S. 55.141. (99-503)

ESTER JONES

CLERK'S OFFICE

"MODIFY DOCKET PLEADING UPDATE"

\$ 200

The Civil and Family Divisions of the Clerk's Office take in more than three million pleadings. These require various docket entries and updates. With this suggestion, Ms. Jones offered a modification to the data entry screen used to process these Docket Pleading Updates. Once implemented, this suggestion enhanced departmental efficiencies by shortening the processing time needed to perform related computer updates. (99-541)

CARLOS FERNANDEZ AND**EMILIO ORBIS**

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

"USE VACTOR TRUCK TO LIFT MANHOLE COVERS"

\$ 200

Mr. Orbis and Mr. Fernandez suggested use of the Vactor Truck boom to lift heavy manhole covers when cleaning manholes around the Stations. A chain is used to attach the hydraulically operated boom of the Vactor Truck. Employees do not have to use physical strength thus reducing chances of a potential back injury as well. (99-646)

OLGA AVILA

CLERK'S OFFICE

"PROBATE CLERK IN BASEMENT WITH RADIO"

\$ 100

Ms. Avila's suggestion involved providing a two-way radio to the File Unit employee assigned to the basement file area of the Miami-Dade County Courthouse. Currently there are more than 500,000 files housed in the basement file area of the Courthouse. In addition to file maintenance responsibilities, the employee assigned to this area is continually called upon to retrieve basement files throughout the day. Ms. Avila's suggestion has resulted in quicker response time and eliminated the need to have two clerks assigned to this area simultaneously. (99-699)

**ELIAS MERDJAN, NORBERTO ORTIZ,
AND ORESTES PEREZ**

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

"STEEL BEAM AND FRAME FOR FENCE REPAIR"

\$ 100

Mr. Merdjan, Mr. Perez, and Mr. Ortiz suggested duplicating the up-and-down function of a backhoe with the lift gate of a truck. A 60 ft long fence, torn down at a Trash and Recycling Center during Hurricane Irene, was successfully lifted into place utilizing a 3" pipe bolted to the base of the truck bed as a result. (20-553)

JONATHAN SPIKES

MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"MURAL FOR STRESS RELIEF"

\$ 300

Mr. Spikes made a suggestion that the Communications Bureau paint a colorful fish tank mural on the terrace wall. Prior to the mural, scenery for police dispatchers and complaint officers was a bare gray wall. The multi-colored sea animals that Jonathan visualized as he stared at that bare wall became a reality for all of his coworkers to enjoy. Implementation of the mural has helped to alleviate stress, produced a higher level of productivity, and improved the working environment. (20-598)

VICTOR GARCIA

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

"AUXILIARY CRANE AT WEST TRANSFER STATION"

\$ 200

Mr. Garcia suggested fabricating an auxiliary crane to carry the heavy waste crane parts (i.e. radiator oil cooler, swing motor, etc) that are removed and replaced when needed as part of maintenance to the Tanguay Crane at the West Transfer Station. This auxiliary crane easily assembles from fabricated sections. The suggestion reduces the potential of injuries while working with these heavy steel parts. (20-610)

ARTHUR LIEBHABER

MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

"REDESIGN PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FORM"

\$ 150

Mr. Liebhaber redesigned the parental consent form used by the Library. He combined an 8.5" x 11" letter, 8.5" x 5.5" card, and envelope into one self-sealing letter sized form. Although there was a cost savings of \$85 a year in paper costs, the intangible benefits included the efficiency and ease of handling the simplified notices and an improved public image. (20-623)